

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A cooking apparatus for cooking food, comprising:  
a housing having an interior portion;  
a support member located in the housing for supporting a food item to be cooked;  
a lower heating element located in the housing below the support member and adapted to produce heat;

a first upper heating element located in the housing above the support structure and adapted to produce heat;

a power source for supplying electrical power from an electricity source, the electrical power providing the energy to heat to the upper heating element and the lower heating element;

a controller coupled to the power source and each of the upper and lower heating elements, wherein the controller is adapted to provide electrical power to each of the upper heating element and lower heating element independently of one another, and wherein the controller comprises a memory programmed with software in which:

a first temperature set point that corresponds to the lower heating element;  
a second temperature set point that corresponds to the first upper heating element; and

at least one programmed cooking sequence having a specified time period,

wherein the at least one programmed cooking sequence utilizes both the first upper heating element and the lower heating element during the specified time period;

a thermocouple adapted to measure the temperature inside the housing, the thermocouple further adapted to transmit the temperature measurement inside the housing to the controller, wherein the controller is adapted to cease provision of electrical power to the lower heating element when the temperature transmitted by the thermocouple is greater than the first temperature set point, the controller is adapted to provide electrical power to the lower heating element when the temperature transmitted by the thermocouple is lower than the first temperature set point, the controller is adapted to cease provision of electrical power to the upper heating element when the temperature transmitted by the sensor is greater than the second temperature set point, and the controller is adapted to provide electrical power to the upper heating element when the temperature transmitted by the sensor is less than the second temperature set point; and

wherein the first temperature set point is lower than the second temperature set point.

10. (Previously Presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 9, wherein the at least one programmed cooking sequence includes operating the upper heating element at more than one power level.

11. (Previously Presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first temperature set point is lower than the second temperature set point.

12. (Previously Presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a second upper heating element, wherein the controller is adapted to cease provision of electrical power to the second upper heating element when the temperature transmitted by the sensor is greater than the second temperature set point, and the controller is adapted to provide electrical

power to the second upper heating element when the temperature transmitted by the sensor is less than the second temperature set point.

13. (Previously Presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 12, wherein the at least one programmed cooking sequence includes providing electrical power to one of the following combinations of the first and second upper heating elements:

the first and second upper heating elements, wherein the electrical power is provided substantially equally to each of the first and second heating elements;

only the first upper heating element; and

only the second upper heating element.

14. (Previously Presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one programmed cooking sequence includes providing electrical power to the combination of the first and second upper heating elements at a first power level and a second power level, wherein the heat produced by the combination is proportional to the first power level and the second power level.

15. (Previously Presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 14, wherein the first power level provides more electrical power to the combination of the first and second upper heating elements than the second power level.

16. (Previously Presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first power level is provided for a specified time period of the at least one programmed cooking sequence.

17. (Previously Presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 12, wherein the at least one programmed cooking sequence comprises a plurality of programmed cooking sequences, the plurality of cooking sequences including at least:

a first cooking sequence in which the controller provides electric power to the first upper heating element; and

a second cooking sequence in which the controller provides electric power to the second upper heating element, wherein the first and second cooking sequences are independent of each other.

18. (Previously Presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 13, wherein the controller ceases to provide electrical power to the first and second upper heating elements when the thermocouple transmits a temperature greater than the second temperature set point, regardless of whether the specified time period of the at least one programmed cooking sequence has elapsed, and wherein the specified time period of the at least one programmed cooking sequence continues when the provision of electrical power to the first and second upper heating elements is ceased.

19. (Previously Presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 17, wherein the controller ceases to provide electrical power to the first and second upper heating elements when the thermocouple transmits a temperature greater than the second temperature set point, regardless of whether the specified time period of the at least one programmed cooking sequence has elapsed, and wherein the specified time period of the at least one programmed cooking sequence continues when the provision of electrical power to the first and second upper heating elements is ceased.